

Fact Sheet: U.S. and Indonesia Sign Customs Mutual Assistance Memorandum of Understanding



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Enhanced cooperation between U.S. and Indonesia Customs Authorities will facilitate greater trade and spur economic growth in both countries.

On November 17, the U.S. and Indonesia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Indonesian Customs and Excise.

- The MOU establishes a framework for Customs-Customs technical assistance, information sharing, and law enforcement cooperation in order to facilitate greater trade and prevent transshipments and other customs crimes.
- In June 1967, the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC), informally known as the World Customs Organization (WCO), adopted a model bilateral convention on mutual administrative assistance for countries to implement as part of a national customs policy.
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection has used this model as a basis for negotiating Customs Mutual Assistance arrangements with other foreign administrations since joining the WCO in 1970. Domestic and foreign courts recognize each arrangement as a legal basis for wide ranging cooperation.
- Such a framework is vital because of explosive growth in the volume and complexity of international trade. Great demands are being placed on customs administrations around the world. With government resources not able to keep pace with this growing trade, customs administrations rely on mutual assistance as a powerful investigative tool.
- These arrangements allow for the exchange of information and documents that will ultimately assist countries in the prevention and investigation of customs offenses. They are particularly helpful for the Attaché offices, and each arrangement is tailored to the capacities and national policy of an individual country's customs administration.

- The United States has entered into Customs Mutual Assistance arrangements with 58 customs administrations.